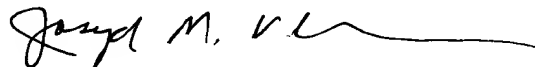


claims 46-57, Group IV to claims 58-63, Group V to claims 64-67, and Group VI to claims 68-75. The Applicants hereby elects without traverse to proceed with Group I corresponding to claims 1-22, 40-45, and 76-86.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Joseph M. Villeneuve
Reg. No. 37,460

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
(510) 843-6200